GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:239
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2001
DECLARATION OF AS THE YEAR OF BOOKS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH;PALANIYAPPA GOUNDER KUMARASAMY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have declared the year 2001-2002 as the "Year of Books" ;

(b) if so, the significance of declaring a year dedicated to books ;

(c) the details of the programmes proposed to be organized by the National Book Trust in and outside the Capital to popularize books;

(d) whether any particular emphasis is proposed to be given on making the books cheaper; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the house.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOKSABHASTARREDQUESTION NO239 TO BE ANSWEREDON 78.2001 ASKED BY SHRI P. KUMARASAMY AND SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH REGARDING DECLARATIC 2001-2002 AS THE 'YEAR OF BOOKS'

(a) to (e): The Government of India has declared the year 2001-2002beginning 23rd April 2001 as the Year of Books. April 23rd was proposed as the commencement date as this day is observed the world over as 'World Book and Copyright Day' on the initiative of UNESCO.

The National Policy on Education 1986, as revised in1992, envisaged availability of books and promotion of book reading habit as essential for peoples' education. In an endeavor to develop the country into a book reading society and to inculcate the habit of book reading in young minds, this year has been dedicated as the Year of Books.

The slogan for the year is 'Books for All and All for Books' which explains the significance of this year. This Ministry has requested all State Governments, Universities and other educational institutions to observe the year in a meaningful manner. As non-governmental initiatives are crucial to spreading reading habits, publishers and the media have also been requested to extend all support. The National Book Trust has been designated as the nodal agency to monitor and support all activities being undertaken in connection with the year of books.

Activities already undertaken by NBT during the year of books:

• A bilingual booklet highlighting the concept of year of books and activities that can be undertaken by different organisations has been brought out. A logo has been specially designed for 'The Year of Books'.

• Special advertisements promoting the concept of book reading has been released in leading national dailies. Card- calendars, bookmarks, timetables and name labels for school children carrying the message of Year of Books have also been prepared and delivered to various schools.

• Six specially designed posters in various sizes and colours aimed at popularizing books and encouraging reading habit have been printed and delivered to various educational institutions

Other activities planned by the NBT for The Year of Books are:

• Setting up of a National Book Gallery-cum-Museum in its upcoming new building. The museum will boast of a permanent exhibition of books, tracing the evolution of the book from the palm manuscript stage to the e-book. The gallery will display rare books, first editions and manuscripts.

• Construction of few rooms as 'Writers Home' in the upcoming new building to provide a neat and clean accommodation to writers visiting Delhi.

• Launching a movement called 'Books on Wheels' by mobilizing a fleet of mobile exhibition vans with the help of State Governments and NGOs with a view to reaching books in semi-urban and rural areas.

• Launching a print and audiovisual campaign to promote book reading habit and encourage the concept of giving books as gifts on different occasions.

• Publish a special series of books for visually impaired and physically handicapped persons.

• Lay special emphasis on bringing out quality books for children.

• Organize book fairs and exhibitions in different parts of the country. Special emphasis will be laid on the Year of Books during the World Book Fair 2002 to be held in New Delhi.

NBT brings out a number of quality books at affordable prices. It operates a Book Club to ensure availability of good books at reasonable prices.

NBT provides a special discount of 10% on all their books during this year in order to make them cheaper. NBT has also requested private publishers to offer special discounts.